

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00235 160705Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13 SSM-03 MCT-01 AID-05 EB-08
/092 W

-----019949 160708Z /17

P R 140850Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6453
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: LE SREF
SUBJ: PRESS SPECULATION ON US PLAN TO RESETTLE PALESTINIAN
REFUGEES

1. SUMMARY: BEIRUT FRENCH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "MAGAZINE," DATED
JANUARY 14, CARRIES LEAD ARTICLE BY HIKMAT ABOU ZEID ALLEGING
THAT US IS PROMOTING PLAN, WITH GENEROUS US FINANCIAL SUPPORT,
TO RESETTLE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM LEBANON IN OTHER ARAB
COUNTRIES, AND THAT US SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE RAISED THIS
ISSUE DURING HIS DECEMBER TOUR OF ARAB COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. "MAGAZINE" BASES ITS STORY ON "INFORMATION RECEIVED TWO
WEEKS AGO FROM LEBANESE AND ARAB SOURCES." IT CLAIMS THAT "BY
MEANS OF A NEW PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION, AMERICA IS ALREADY
PREPARING TO SETTLE REFUGEES IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE
NOW LOCATED." CLAIMING THAT ITS INFORMATION IS FROM VARIOUS
CONFIRMING SOURCES, "MAGAZINE" SAID THAT "IN SPITE OF DENIALS,
EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT THERE IS ALREADY A STRUCTURED
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AND GLOBAL PLAN INSPIRED BY THE ISRAELIS BUT ADOPTED
BY THE AMERICANS."

3. THE STORY SAYS THAT DURING HIS LATEST MIDDLE EAST
TRIP SECRETARY VANCE PROPOSED THE PLAN TO THE COUNTRIES
WHICH ALREADY HAVE REFUGEES. "THE MAJORITY OF ARAB
COUNTRIES, THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE IS REPORTED

TO HAVE SAID, NEED CREDITS FOR THEIR INDUSTRIALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT...PARTICULARLY LEBANON WHICH IS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION AT THE PRESENT TIME BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGES IT SUFFERED DURING TWO YEARS OF WAR." THE STORY SAYS THAT "CYRUS VANCE REPORTEDLY ALLUDED TO THE USEFULNESS OF PALESTINIAN LABOR WHICH LEBANON NEEDS FOR ITS RECONSTRUCTION."

4. STORY CLAIMS THAT "ARAB CIRCLES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT SECRETARY VANCE OFFERED \$5 BILLION TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF ARAB COUNTRIES FOR THE PLAN AND TO INDEMNIFY THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES AND ASSIST THEM TO FIND WORK AND BE INTEGRATED." STORY CONTINUES THAT WHILE IN LEBANON SECRETARY VANCE REPORTEDLY TRIED TO CONVINCE THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES THAT PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON WOULD NOT BE DANGEROUS FOR THE STABILITY AND FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY, SAYING "THE PALESTINIANS ARE A PEOPLE WHO SEEK ONLY TO LIVE AND TO WORK. IN WORKING PRODUCTIVELY THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPERITY OF LEBANON."

5. STORY ENDS WITH VIEWPOINT THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS' JANUARY 6 ADDRESS TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, IN WHICH HE FIRMLY REJECTED THE IDEA OF SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, WAS THE LEBANESE RESPONSE TO THE AMERICAN PROPOSITION.

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6. COMMENT: THIS IS THE MOST DETAILED VERSION WE HAVE SEEN OF A STORY THAT HAS BEEN MAKING THE ROUNDS IN BEIRUT POLITICAL CIRCLES. DOES DEPT HAVE ANY GUIDANCE ON SUBJECT? IT WOULD BE USEFUL HAVE DENIAL FROM WASHINGTON.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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